
AP[®] Comparative Government and Politics

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary Set 1

Inside:

Free-Response Question 1

- ☒ **Scoring Guidelines**
- ☒ **Student Samples**
- ☒ **Scoring Commentary**

Question 1: Conceptual Analysis**4 points**

-
- (A) Describe a function of an electoral regulatory organization (also called an election commission). **1 point**

Acceptable descriptions include:

- An electoral regulatory organization can do any of the following:
 - set various rules about ballot access and competition.
 - oversee, monitor, or run elections.
 - Enforce campaign laws.
 - ensure ballot access for candidates.
 - provide opportunities for voters to vote.
 - establish voting locations, times, and technology.
 - count votes in elections.
 - Protect polling places.
 - set rules for campaign ads.

-
- (B) Describe an election rule that enhances political competition. **1 point**

Acceptable descriptions include:

- Establishing quotas (regional, gender, or cultural).
- Establishing a proportional election system.
- Creating an independent election commission.
- Reducing qualifications for running in elections.
- Lowering the threshold for winning seats in the legislature.
- Allowing equal media access for all candidates.

-
- (C) Explain how electoral regulatory organizations contribute to democratization. **1 point**

Acceptable explanations include:

- Electoral regulatory organizations contribute to democratization by:
 - managing the fairness of elections to improve electoral competition.
 - reducing voter fraud to increase the legitimacy of the results.
 - improving transparency to increase the public's trust in elections.
 - providing the possibility of alternation of power to increase government legitimacy or stability.
 - adhering to rule of law to promote government legitimacy.

-
- (D) Explain why an authoritarian political system would use an electoral regulatory organization. **1 point**

Acceptable explanations include:

- Authoritarian political systems may use electoral regulatory organizations to:
 - limit opposition candidates from appearing on the ballot.
 - create the appearance of fairness/legitimacy.
 - solidify the ruling party's control.

Total for question 1 4 points

Important: Completely fill in the circle that corresponds to the question you are answering on this page.

Question 1

Question 2

Question 3

Question 4



Begin your response to each question at the top of a new page. Do not skip lines.

A) The function of an election commission is to ensure a free, fair, & competitive election. Since the election commission is an independent body from the government, it is able to prevent election fraud & other corruption by making sure electoral procedures are followed & there is no foul play like ballot stuffing or a rigged election.

B) An election rule that enhances political competition is proportional representation. Proportional representation allows for a multi-party system where even a minority ~~party~~ party can participate in the legislature & based on the proportion of votes that party receives. Proportional representation prevents a one party or two party ~~dominance~~ ^{system} & promotes competition among political parties by letting minority groups have a voice in the law making process.

Use a pen with black or dark blue ink only. Do NOT write your name. Do NOT write outside the box.

● Important: Completely fill in the circle that corresponds to the question you are answering on this page.

Question 1

Question 2

Question 3

Question 4

● ○ ○ ○

Begin your response to each question at the top of a new page. Do not skip lines.

C) Electoral regulatory organizations contribute to democratization by allowing free, fair, & competitive elections. Election commissions can make sure that there is no fraud in an election & ensure that all election procedures are being followed. Having free, fair, & competitive elections, supported by an ~~election com~~ independent election ^{commission} ~~maker~~ sure all votes are treated equally & ensures that the power is in the hands of the people. Rep Democratization is increased by allowing citizens to vote for their representatives fairly.

D) An authoritarian political system would use an electoral regulatory organization that is not ~~inter~~ independent in order to make sure a single person, group, or party stays in power. An electoral regulatory organization could vet candidates & remove those that are not aligned with ~~the~~ ~~ide~~ ideologies of interest & ensure that power remains in the hands of the authoritarian figure or group such as in countries like Russia where Putin remains in power & Iran, where ~~the Supreme leader~~ the Guardian council vets candidates & disqualifies anyone that doesn't align with the Supreme leader's ideologies.

Page 3

Use a pen with black or dark blue ink only. Do NOT write your name. Do NOT write outside the box.

0028342



Important: Completely fill in the circle that corresponds to the question you are answering on this page.

Question 1

Question 2

Question 3

Question 4

☒☐☐☐

Begin your response to each question at the top of a new page. Do not skip lines.

A) a function of an electoral regulatory organization is vetting candidates. This is like how candidates elected in Iran have to be checked to ensure that they push sharia law because that is a big part of their government. This is why they are vetted.

B) an election rule that enhances political competition is Mexico's rule that a certain number of candidates on the ballot for position in the legislative branch are women. This ensures that women get representation in the government and increase political competition.

C) electoral regulatory organizations contribute to democratization because it ensures that candidates elected will not abuse their power ensuring that they ~~also~~ complete their position democratically.

D) an authoritarian political system would use an electoral regulatory organization because then they are able to control which candidates are vetted or not. For example Iran vets their candidates to ensure that they will push ~~the~~ Islamic ideas and laws because that is a big part of their government structure. This gives the government more control over which candidates fill positions.

Page 2

Use a pen with black or dark blue ink only. Do NOT write your name. Do NOT write outside the box.

Important: Completely fill in the circle that corresponds to the question you are answering on this page.

Question 1

Question 2

Question 3

Question 4



Begin your response to each question at the top of a new page. Do not skip lines.

A) function of the electoral regulatory organization is making sure elections are fair and free. They make sure the process of each election goes smoothly.

B) An election rule that enhances political competition is multiparty system. You have to have multiple people running and doing multiple campaigns. That way the opponents are competitive and they can have a good election.

C) electoral regulatory organizations contribute to democratization by making sure elections are free and fair and making sure elections happen every 5 years or however long they are supposed to happen.

D) An authoritarian political system would use an electoral regulatory organization in order to give an illusion of freedom and fair election to the public. This gives them a sense of freedom and democracy.

Question 1

Conceptual Analysis

Note: Student samples are quoted verbatim and may contain spelling and grammatical errors.

Overview

The intent of this question was to assess students' understanding of electoral regulatory organizations (also called election commissions). Students were expected to describe a function of an electoral regulatory organization. In addition, students had to describe an election rule that enhances political competition. Students then needed to explain how electoral regulatory organizations contribute to democratization. Finally, students needed to explain why an authoritarian political system would use an electoral regulatory organization.

Sample: 1A

Score: 4

- (A) The response earned 1 point for describing a function of an electoral regulatory organization as “making sure electoral procedures are followed.”
- (B) The response earned 1 point for describing an election rule that enhances political competition by stating, “Proportional representation allows for a multi-party system where even a minority party can participate.”
- (C) The response earned 1 point for explaining how electoral regulatory organizations contribute to democratization. The response explains that they contribute “by allowing free, fair, & competitive elections” which “ensures that the power is in the hands of the people.”
- (D) The response earned 1 point for explaining that an authoritarian political system would use an electoral regulatory organization “that is not independent in order to make sure a single person, group, or party stays in power.”

Sample: 1B

Score: 3

- (A) The response earned 1 point for describing a function of an electoral regulatory organization as “vetting candidates.”
- (B) The response earned 1 point for describing an election rule that enhances political competition by stating, “Mexico’s rule that a certain number of candidates on the ballot for position in the legislative branch are women.”
- (C) The response did not earn a point for explaining how electoral regulatory organizations contribute to democratization because it states that electoral regulatory organizations “ensure that candidates elected will not abuse their power.” The response does not make a causal link between electoral organizations and democratization.

Question 1 (continued)

(D) The response earned 1 point for explaining why an authoritarian political system would use an electoral regulatory organization by stating, “they are able to control which candidates are vetted or not ... This gives the government more control over which candidates fill positions.”

Sample: 1C

Score: 1

(A) The response did not earn a point for describing a function of an electoral regulatory organization because it describes two goals but does not describe a function.

(B) The response did not earn a point for describing an election rule that enhances political competition because a “multiparty system” is not an election rule.

(C) The response did not earn a point for explaining how electoral regulatory organizations contribute to democratization because it does not make a link between “making sure elections are free and fair and making sure elections happen every 5 years” with democratization.

(D) The response earned 1 point for explaining why an authoritarian political system would use an electoral regulatory organization by explaining the link between giving “an illusion of freedom and fair election to the public” with “a sense of freedom and democracy.”